

Amendments To The Claims

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1) deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2) added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an article having a thickened peripheral portion, comprising:

~~reverse squeezing an initial peripheral portion of an initial article to form a first intermediate article having a first intermediate peripheral portion that is partly thinned, and squeezing the first intermediate peripheral portion of the first intermediate article to form a second intermediate article having a second intermediate peripheral portion that is thickened throughout~~

squeezing a first intermediate peripheral portion of a first intermediate article, to thereby form a second intermediate article having a second intermediate peripheral portion that is thickened, and

reverse squeezing an initial peripheral portion of an initial article as a preliminary processing, to thereby form the first intermediate article,

wherein the reverse squeezing step is performed in a direction opposite to the direction of the squeezing step

wherein the reverse squeezing step comprises compressing the initial peripheral portion of the initial article in a direction of thickness of the article, to thereby form an inclined surface in the first intermediate peripheral portion so that the first intermediate peripheral portion has opposite surfaces of different area, and

wherein the reverse squeezing step is performed, such that when the first intermediate peripheral portion of the first intermediate article is clamped between a pair of restraint dies in the squeezing step, a restraint surface of one of the restraint dies extends outwardly beyond one of opposite surfaces of the first intermediate peripheral portion.

2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the squeezing step comprises:  
laterally compressing the first intermediate peripheral portion of the first intermediate article to thereby cause the inclined surface to transform into vertical and horizontal surfaces as a result of plastic flow caused by plastic deformation.
4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 further comprises:  
press forming a sheet material to thereby form the initial article.
5. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1 further comprises:  
finishing the second intermediate peripheral portion of the second intermediate article.
6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 further comprises:  
restriking the second intermediate peripheral portion of the second intermediate article.
7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the reverse squeezing step comprises:  
seating the initial peripheral portion on a lower die of a reverse squeezing device, and  
extending a reverse squeezing member of the reverse squeezing device toward the lower die so as to compress the initial peripheral portion.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the squeezing step further comprises:

clamping the first intermediate peripheral portion of the first intermediate article between upper and lower restraint dies of a squeezing device, such that at least a portion of the first intermediate peripheral portion extends outwardly therefrom, and

pushing the upper and lower restraint dies into a squeezing member of the squeezing device together with the first intermediate article clamped therebetween so as to compress the first intermediate peripheral portion.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an article having a thickened peripheral portion, comprising:

half die cutting a sheet blank to form an initial article having an initial peripheral portion,  
seating [[an]] the initial peripheral portion of [[an]] the initial article on a lower die of a reverse squeezing device,

extending a reverse squeezing member of the reverse squeezing device toward the lower die so as to compress the initial peripheral portion, thereby forming a first intermediate article having a first intermediate peripheral portion that is partly thinned,

clamping the first intermediate peripheral portion of the first intermediate article between upper and lower restraint dies of a squeezing device, such that at least a portion of the first intermediate peripheral portion extends outwardly therefrom, and

pushing the upper and lower restraint dies into a squeezing member of the squeezing device together with the first intermediate article clamped therebetween so as to compress the first intermediate peripheral portion, thereby forming a second intermediate article having a second intermediate peripheral portion that is thickened throughout.

10-17. (Cancelled).